



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009

No. 47

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 18, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable G.K. BUTTERFIELD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend George E. Battle, Bishop, North Eastern Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

God, we thank You for this wonderful day and this historic occasion. Thank You for our wonderful Nation and all those who represent us in the Congress of the United States of America.

You continually give us the opportunity to start anew so we celebrate this magnificent collection of leaders who will help pilot this Nation. Please give our Congress the wisdom to do what is right and not be driven by what is expedient. Give them the discretion to not be threatened by wise counsel or constructive criticism.

In the face of this magnificent occasion, God, continue to not only endow and bolster our Representatives, but give us the understanding to know that we play a crucial part in whether or not our leadership will be successful.

Bless the brave men and women of our armed services and their families. God bless America, her leaders and her people. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1541. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills and agreed to joint resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 303. An act to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999.

S. 620. An act to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress.

S.J. Res. 8. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 9. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of France A. Cordova as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

WELCOMING BISHOP GEORGE E. BATTLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged today to welcome and say words of welcome on behalf of the House to the wonderful bishop and minister who delivered our prayer for us this morning, whom I am privileged to have as a constituent in my congressional district.

He is not only a leader in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church but has been a leader in our community of Charlotte, North Carolina, and in our State for a number of years. He has served on our school board, he has been a corporate leader serving on boards of distinction, and he is an outstanding family man as well as, of course, a religious leader of our community.

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Battle today, and wish him well. His wife is just recovering from surgery, and we wish her well also on behalf of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MORNING IN AMERICA BRINGS NEW COURSE OF ACTION

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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